

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58

May 2011

No. 4



Calendar

Fri., Apr. 22	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby	Sat., May 7	GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; Weekly Farmer's Market opens, Penn Place parking lot, 9 am–1 pm
Wed., Apr. 27	Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; Candidates' Forum (see statements, pp 7, 8)	Mon., May 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., Apr. 28	Not for Seniors Only, Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–3:30 pm	Tues., May 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Apr. 30	Plant swap, Penn Place basketball court, 10 am; Weed Warrior Day, Porcupine Woods, 10–2 pm (p 4)	Sat., May 14	GPES Spring Fair, 10 am–2 pm
Mon., May 2	Watercolors by Christine Heyse, Penn Place (see p 2); Town election (p 3): Voting, Post Office lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm; Swearing-in party, Town Hall, 9 pm	Thurs., May 19	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., May 5	GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., May 21	Progressive dinner, 6 pm (see p 5)
Fri., May 6	Film Society, <i>Breaking Away</i> , Town Hall; food 7:15, film 8 pm (p 6)	Wed., May 25	Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, Land Use Forum (see p 5)
		Thurs., May 26	Not for Seniors Only, Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–3:30 pm
		Mon., May 30	Memorial Day; no trash collection
		Sun., June 5	Musicale for scholarship fund; Town Hall, 4 pm

A Hot Time in the Old Town

On a freakishly hot night in Garrett Park, 20 or so residents made their way past flowering dogwoods and hydrangeas in leaf to gather at the Town Hall and talk about taxes. "If we want to maintain some semblance of services in the town," said Councilmember Hans Wegner, "we have to increase property taxes." The Mayor noted that "we've lost a tremendous amount of highway revenue," for which we have to compensate.

One resident recalled that "we used to get along without a large staff and large expenditures." He argued that we could "control costs better. We don't need to fix all our streets at once. We can think in terms of maintenance of streets rather than rebuilding." Another asked, "Must we water our trees *twice* a week?"

But another Garrett Parker rose to say that "although I live on a severely restricted income, I have faith in the Council in this matter. I have seen a lot of patching up instead of fixing. It's not a good way to operate. I'm in favor of the increase."

One resident complained that signs related to the tax issue had appeared on his front yard. "We have a community board for notices. First Amendment rights end at my property."

(The Mayor reminded us that Garrett Parkers might be surprised to find out where their property ends and the town's begins.)

Later in the evening, the Council adopted a budget that includes the tax increase; it also passed a motion to offer a tax rebate to qualified residents.

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In other business, a demolition permit was granted to the owners of 11111 Kenilworth. The house is not designated historic. The Council did, though, ask the owners to take photos of the interior before the house is taken down, and Hans Wegner urged that they contact a house “harvesting” business (this was the first time your reporter had encountered this use of *harvest*). The owners were happy to do these things.

There now ensued an extensive linguistic back and forth on *hump* v. *bump* v. *speed pillows* v. *sleeping policemen*. The exchange was inspired by the impending installation of a speed whatever at the bottom of Rokeby Avenue. As the Council talked about possible locations, various attendees wondered why the word *bump* has gone, as one towns person put it, “the way of all flesh.”

No decisions were made about the Rokeby location, but I was able to place *sleeping policemen* alongside *harvested house* in my *Learn something new every day* file.

On to presentations by residents:

1. Washington Gas did extensive work on Oxford recently, one resident explained, and they left a significant amount of asphalt behind. Ted Pratt will look into this.
2. A Holy Cross youth volunteer group is looking for projects in town. Contact Chuck Berry (see p 4).
3. “Could the town put a stand with poop bags for dogs by the temporary school bus stop on Oxford? Dogs will do what dogs will do.” Yes, Ted Pratt answered.

In his Mayor’s Notes, Chris Keller remarked that he and Hans Wegner recently met with the district supervisor from the State Highway Administration. Their chat was mainly about a Strathmore pothole that has sort of been repaired four times, but remains a problem. “He seemed responsive.” (Said tentatively.)

Residents who have been feeding deer shouldn’t. Ted went on rather scarily about Lyme Disease and other unpleasant things; and one resident said that because her neighbor feeds the animals, they now have a herd of 13—which, according to an expert they know, will increase to 26 in not too long a time.

Under Councilmembers’ Reports, Chris Petito suggested the Council revisit the question of how town committees are constituted, the rules for admission to committees, and related subjects. “Right now, things are unclear.”

Beth Irons announced that the Citizens Association will host a Land Use Task Force presentation on May 25, where the group will present their recommendations and update us on zoning changes going on at the county level.

The Mayor now remembered to mention that he attended the swimming pool board meeting,

and he asked that the pool “continue to be sensitive to immediate residents in regard to noise.”

After the Town Administrator noted that in regard to the budget “we’re on course; no surprises,” the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Soltan

Art at Penn Place

Beginning Monday, May 2, the watercolor paintings of Christine A. Heyse will be on display at the Penn Place Art Space. Christine writes: “I began painting in watercolors in 1983. I have done commissioned portraits of children, pets, and homes and have won many awards in regional and national shows. I am a past president of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists and a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor society. My paintings are included in many private and public collections all over the world, including the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda and City Hall in Pinneberg, Germany. I have taught adult and children’s art classes and run art workshops.

“My 60-foot-long mural in the style of Monet, located in the front courtyard of the Cafe Monet in Kensington, was featured in local newspapers and the subject of an interview on Fox morning news. I have served as curator for exhibits at the Cafe Monet and the Left Bank Bakery Cafe for several years. My watercolor ‘Barbershop Gnome’ won a major award at the Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid Atlantic Exhibition in 2009. My painting ‘Out to Lunch II’ was included in the book *The Artistic Touch* 4 published in 2010. I was awarded a grant to be Artist-in-Residence for one month in Dinan, France, in April 2010. My work can be seen at www.christineheyse.com.”

Bert Zbar

Garrett Park Youth Art Show

Do you wish your student were bringing home more art projects from school? The Garrett Park Women’s Club might be able to give you a hand with that! Introducing the first-ever Youth Art Show Saturday, June 18, at the Town Hall. Penn Place Gallery Chairwomen Jane Salomon and Vickie Baily will co-curate the event. Every Garrett Park young person still living at home is eligible to enter. More details in the next *Bugle* and on the GP listserv!

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town Elections. Elections will be held May 2. Please be sure to vote. Candidates for Town Council (three seats for 2-year terms) are Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp. *Prior registration* is required—all citizen voters must be on the Montgomery County voter rolls; noncitizens must be registered with the town.

Absentee ballots (new procedure). There are two types of absentee ballots: The regular absentee ballots are available from the Town Office until 4 pm on April 27. Late absentee ballots will be available after April 27 at the Town Office, and on Election Day from the Judges of Election at the polls. Voters requiring absentee ballots need to file an application. Applications are available from the Town Office or can be downloaded off the town's Web site: garrettpark-md.gov. The Clerk or Judges must receive absentee ballots before the polls close at 7:30 pm on Election Day if they are to be counted.

Hours of voting. Voting hours on Monday, May 2, will be 7 am to 7:30 pm, in the Post Office lobby at Penn Place, 4600 Waverly Avenue.

Election reception at Town Hall. The Town Hall bell will be rung before the election results are announced. The evening will include a swearing-in ceremony and reception, starting at 9 pm. We expect the results will be available by 9:30, so plan to come and greet the elected Councilmembers.

Judges of Election. Brenda Artim, Margaret Goldsborough, and Cliff Tarpy will serve as Judges, with Natalie Grande, Les Henig, and Judy Heyman as Alternate Judges. The Judges will appoint a number of poll workers to assist them.

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. At the regular April meeting, the Council adopted the FY 2012 Operating and Capital Budget, copies of which are available at the Town Office and will be posted on the town Web site. The FY 2012 budget increases the tax rate to 21 cents per \$100 of value, an increase of 1.8 cents, and anticipates a 12.6 percent increase in operating revenues to \$1,069,800 as compared to this year's budget of \$950,250. Transfers from available funds in the town's treasury in the amount of \$182,851 will bring the total budgeted FY 2012 receipts and transfers to \$1,252,651, an

increase of 11.9 percent from this year's budgeted receipts and transfers of \$1,119,390.

These receipts will fund \$908,035 in operating expenses, a decrease of \$56,355 (–5.8 percent) from FY 2011—a significant reduction. The transfer to the capital program is \$344,616, a major increase of \$189,616 from this year's budget as the town embarks on a multiyear Capital Improvement Program (consult the posted budget for details). It is expected that when the books are closed on FY 2010 in the late summer, the town will have \$247,000 in unobligated funds in the town's treasury that can be applied to such expenditures as the Council deems appropriate. Total operating reserves will set at \$175,000.

Property Tax Relief. At the April meeting, the Town Council established a town property tax rebate program. Homeowners who have qualified for the Maryland Homeowners Property Tax Credit program will receive a 1.8 cent rebate from the town, keeping their actual town tax rate unchanged from this year. For information on how to apply, contact the Town Office.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator/
Clerk-Treasurer

Jobs List

Summer is coming, so if you would like to add yourself to the jobs list for the season, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488). We will be reprinting the list in future *Bugles*. Everyone else, please consult the list if you need someone for any of these tasks.

Name	Phone	Job
David Altar (20)		Computer assistance

Please see the complete list in the printed *Bugle* or contact the Town Office. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include names of minor children, private telephone numbers, or private e-mail addresses in the *e-Bugle*.

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GPES

The Annual Kindergarten Orientation will be held at the school this year on Wednesday, May 11, and one-half day, Thursday, May 12. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2011, please call the school office (301-571-6920) as soon as possible. The school will be closed from April 18 to 25 for Spring Break. It is critically important to have incoming students registered because this will ensure that we receive the teachers and staff we need for the fall. We also want to connect new families to our Garrett Park community. If you have friends or neighbors who may not be aware of our Kindergarten registration procedures, please pass along this information to them. Current Kindergarten students will not have school on these days.

Kindergarten attendance is mandatory. If you have a child who is eligible, but do not wish you child to attend this year, an enrolment waiver must be completed. These forms are available in the main office.

Thursday, April 28, is Take Your Child to Work Day. If you are considering taking your child to work with you, it is considered an excused

absence if you send a note to your child’s teacher as well as to Mr. Brogan, the attendance secretary, in advance of the absence, not on the day.

Sad to report, long-time Garrett Park teacher Marge Stemble will be retiring this June, wrapping up a 38-year career in teaching, 30 of which have been at Garrett Park.

As of now, it looks as though there will be five Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classes, four third grade classes, and three fourth and fifth grade classes. Who says we’re not bursting at the seams? The new school building will use that addition when we move in next winter.

Part-time work is available for substitute lunch/recess aides. Applicants need to be 18 years of age and will be paid at \$13.88 an hour. If interested, call the school office for more information.

School Counselor Shana Schnaue is looking for speakers for the annual Career Day on May 27. If you could give a 20 to 25 minute presentation about your job to a class, please e-mail her at Shana_a_schnaue@mcpsmd.org.

Mary Moyer

Wanted: Community Projects

About 15 young teens and five parents of the Holy Cross Youth Group successfully accomplished a community service project in town on Sunday, April 10. The young ladies and men of this Youth Group assisted town residents Mr. John Wilpers and Ms. Susan Alexander in sprucing up their yards by collecting fallen branches, pulling weeds, and raking leaves.

Youth Group Coordinator Patty Guay-Berry recently worked with these same teens to paint clay pots and plant healing herbs that will be presented at an upcoming Cancer Awareness Day at Suburban Hospital.

The Holy Cross Youth Group is looking for similar projects for teens. Please contact Patty or Chuck Berry to suggest service projects.

Chuck Berry

Weed Warrior Day

This annual “rite of spring” takes place on Saturday, April 30, starting at 10 am in Porcupine Woods by Penn Place. Come help us liberate the rapidly disappearing native wildflowers from encroaching invasives. Volunteers work until about 2 pm; if you can pitch in, even briefly, the effect of many hands will make a big difference to this woodland park. Wear protective clothing and gloves; light refreshments will be supplied. Community service hours are available for students.

Green Again

Philip Brunschwyler paid for this month’s green banner. We thank him for his generosity. We are now good for the rest of this printing year. If you would like to donate for our next printing year, starting in September 2011, send a check for \$60 made out to the Citizens Association to Mary Moyer, Box 98. Thanks.


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Citizens Association News

The CA accepted nominations for the three Town Council seats open for the upcoming election on May 2. Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp were nominated for these positions. All nominations were seconded. Jack and Chris accepted the nomination in person, and Phil accepted via proxy.

Ted Pratt reminded all of important election dates. He noted that the Council has changed the absentee ballot procedures since the last election. Qualified voters who are unable to come to the polls on the day of the election may apply to the Town Office for an absentee ballot. April 27 is the last day that regular absentee ballots will be available from the Town Office. After that, late absentee ballots will be available from the Town Office in person, or by fax or e-mail, but can no longer be mailed. On Election Day, May 2, applications for absentee ballots will be available from the Judges of Election at the polls. Please see the Administrator's Notes (p 3) or contact Ted Pratt at the Town Office for more details regarding this process. Election results will be announced at the Town Hall around 9 pm.

Next Meeting. On April 27, the Citizens Association will hold the annual Candidates' Forum. Candidates for the three Town Council seats up for election will discuss their views on issues important to the citizens of Garrett Park.

May Meeting. On May 25, the CA will host a "Garrett Park Land Use Forum" at 8 pm in the Town Hall. Members of the Land Use Task Force (LUTF) and Town Council will discuss the recommendations of the LUTF with town residents. The meeting will be held as an open forum and

is intended to obtain and discuss views and reactions to the recommendations. The LUTF will explain and discuss the differences between present regulations and the recommendations. Since the LUTF issued its Final Report to the Town Council, Montgomery County has been working on a total rewrite of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. An update on the county efforts and how they might impact Garrett Park will also be part of the forum.

Please plan to attend this important meeting and become involved in the land use discussion. We look forward to hearing your input.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to P.O. Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2011 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).

Progressive Dinner, May 21

I/we would like to participate in the 2011 Progressive Dinner on Saturday, May 21.

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Contact e-mail: _____

Choose your top three preferences from the following nine options, indicating first, second, and third choices. (You will receive confirmation after May 2.)

Provide a course!

___ Provide appetizer (for 16 to 20)

___ Provide salad (for 12 to 16)

___ Provide meat main course (for 10 to 12)

___ Provide vegetarian main course (for 10 to 12)

___ Provide dessert (for 16 to 20)

Be a host!

___ Host salad at my home (for 10 to 16)

___ Host main course at my home (for 8 to 14)

___ Host vegetarian main course at my home (for 10 to 12)

___ Host dessert at my home (for about 30 to 50)

Special dietary needs? (Vegetarian, vegan, food allergies, other)
Please list here: _____

Interested in volunteering to coordinate this event? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Still only \$5 per person to participate!

Please return form to Garrett Park Progressive Dinner/GP Women's Club, Box 494, Garrett Park, MD 20896.
Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women's Club.

Questions? Contact Jean Horan

Deadline for registration: **Monday, May 2, please!**

Mary Jane Edlund

Long-time Garrett Park resident Mary Jane Edlund passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at the age of 85 in Belmont, Massachusetts. Mary Jane was born December 5, 1925, in Attleboro, Massachusetts, to Raymond and Bertha Wells. She attended Skidmore College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in English in 1947. Mary Jane married Paul Erik Edlund on July 17, 1948. In 1958 they moved to Garrett Park, buying their first home on Kenilworth Avenue, where together they raised their four children. Mary Jane returned to school at the University of Maryland and earned her master's degree in education in 1967. She spent her life advocating for children, first with her own family, volunteering with the local daycare association, and then taking employment with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene licensing child care centers. After her retirement in 1987, she volunteered her time reading to special needs children. She also volunteered at the Woodend Sanctuary at the Chevy Chase chapter of the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Mary Jane loved Garrett Park for the many wonderful friends she made there. She loved to entertain. Her home was always open, and the cookies were always warm for the many streams of children that would come through the door. She loved swimming at the Garrett Park pool,

socializing at the Post Office, making paper hats with the kids for the 4th of July parade, walks through Porcupine Woods and trips to the Kennedy Center and Wolf Trap. She was Garrett Park's "First Lady" when Paul was Mayor from 1990 to 1996. After Mary Jane's children were grown, she and Paul decided they needed a smaller place. They ventured a whole three blocks to build their second home on Kenilworth Avenue, where they lived until 2004. Before they moved to Massachusetts to be near their daughters, Garrett Park residents threw them a grand farewell party at the Almays'.

Mary Jane is survived by her husband of 62 years, Paul of Belmont, Massachusetts; her four children, Karen Edlund and husband Phil of Somerville, Massachusetts, Christa Edlund and husband Joel of Yarmouthport, Massachusetts, Paul Edlund and wife Michele of Frederick, Maryland, and Leslie Edlund and husband Steven of Quincy, California; sisters Elizabeth and Carolyn; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A celebration of Mary Jane's life will be held May 15, from 11 am to 1 pm, at Massachusetts Audubon's Habitat Education and Wildlife Center in Belmont. Memorial gifts may be made to the Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Karen Edlund

GPFS Presents *Breaking Away*

A classic coming of age story, *Breaking Away* (1979, PG) tells the story of four "townies" who have just graduated from high school in Bloomington, Indiana, home of Indiana University. They come from the working class families who quarried the limestone used to build the university, but are not welcome there. Outsiders and adrift in their own hometown, they look for ways to "break away" from their limitations. As one reviewer noted, "No sex, no violence, no special effects. Just an incredibly literate and humorous script and fantastic performances by the four leads." One of the leads is Dennis Quaid in his "breakout" performance. But the most memorable

character is Dave, played by Dennis Christopher, whose dream is to be an Italian bicycle racer.

The midwestern, small town setting of the film seems to call for a potluck supper. So bring your dish and share the bounty. If you don't feel like cooking, pay \$10 at the door. Dinner will be at 7:15 pm. Drinks—soda, beer, and wine—are available at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

The film will be shown about 8 pm. Admission is free to GPFS members and is \$5 per person, \$10 per family at the door.

See you at the Town Hall on Friday, May 6.



9am-9pm
Mon - Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Jeremy Lichtenstein would like to send out a hearty thank you to the town for contributions to the campaign he recently ran for the Manna Food Center. Thanks in part to your donations, he was able to raise almost \$7,000 and provide nearly 500 pounds of food for the Rockville-based food center that works to feed the hungry of Montgomery County.
- ♪ The Post Office staff wishes to remind you to pay your mail box rent when it comes due. If it is not paid by the 10th of the following month, you will lose your box. Headquarters does the closing, not our wonderful staff. There are no empty boxes left, and there is a waiting list for the next one that opens up.
- ♪ The GPES Video Club participated in the Montgomery County Media Festival hosted by Churchill High School recently. It was the only elementary school in the competition, but still won first prize with a Public Service Announcement entitled "Lights Out," an energy conservation themed video. The club was also featured in an article in the *Gazette*. The club is sponsored by Garrett Estates resident Suzanne Hickey and includes two Garrett Park residents.
- ♪ Is someone in your family graduating from high school or other higher education institution? We would like to publish the names of those in town who have successfully made it through their school years. Give Mary Moyer a call with names, places graduated from, and future plans by June 5 to make it into the last issue of this printing year.
- ♪ Contact Sue Petito if you'd like to play or sing at the musicale, June 5. And if you are interested in singing with the Town Singers, you would be most welcome.

Candidates' Statements

Phil Schulp

Vote for me to represent you again as a Garrett Park Councilmember. The past year has been tough, both for Garrett Park and for the nation. Various issues have served to divide residents, but now more than ever it is time to work together. That is why I am again running for a seat on the Council. First, let me tell you a little about myself.

I was born in Rochester, New York. In spring 2004, my wife Jean Horan, daughter Gianna (now in second grade at Garrett Park Elementary) and I found the perfect house—bordering the train tracks. I am an electrical engineer and work for an international firm that builds passenger railroad cars. I love everything about trains. I even owned a locomotive in my single days. I am now running for my second term on the Town Council.

With these difficult economic times come difficult decisions; I am willing to make them. Before I do so, I analyze all sides of the issue and seek input from others. With sound information, I make the best, and occasionally unpopular, choice for the town. I stick with my decisions even if it means I am in the minority. Nevertheless, I always keep in mind that local government should be clear, concise, and accountable to the citizens, *not* the other way around.

Garrett Park will be facing some big expenses in the next few years, such as

- dealing with deferred road maintenance;
- addressing failing storm sewers and associated drainage;
- addressing our aging arboretum;
- updating our parks.

These issues will require a Town Councilmember who is responsible in the following ways:

- being accountable to the citizens;
- working in an open and transparent manner;

- finding practical, cost-effective solutions to challenges;
- writing thoughtfully crafted, clear, and precise legislation while protecting the town from potential vulnerabilities.

I am that person, and have been for the last two years. I ask for your vote; I look forward to representing *your interests* for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail or in person, to share your views on making Garrett Park a better place to live.

Chris Petito

I am running for re-election to the Town Council so that I can continue to help the town address the important issues facing us. I have lived in Garrett Park for almost 15 years with my wife Sue and our three children, Lucia (21), Chris (19) and Billy (15). We live at the north end of Rokeby Avenue. We enjoy living in Garrett Park, the small town atmosphere and the friendly and interesting neighbors.

Over the past two years, I have enjoyed working with the other Councilmembers and the citizens in maintaining the quality of life in town and addressing the issues facing the town. I have tried to foster an open and respectful atmosphere where everyone's voice can be heard and where we can work together in the town's best interest. I also have tried to be responsible and prudent in overseeing the town's budget and seeking to keep town finances on a sound footing.

I hope that you think I have been a responsive and effective representative for you over the past two years, and that you will vote for me on May 2.

Jack Mandel

I'm running for re-election for a seat on the Garrett Park Town Council. Garrett Park has been home to me, my wife Rana, and my son Gabe since 1999. I

love it here, likely for many of the same reasons you love it, too: going on early morning and late evening walks, listening to the birds, hanging outside with neighbors during an impromptu get together, getting involved in community events, watching kids and adults laughing and greeting one another—and feeling safe. It's pretty idyllic—which ain't a bad thing.

I've served on the Town Council for two terms; if elected, this will be my third. Frankly, it's not terribly fun or exciting work. (At least not for me. I was co-president and Secretary of the Citizens Association before I was on the Council. And I started and continue to work with the Garrett Park Film Society. Those are fun.) Yet it's important to serve on the Council in our tiny municipality. It is the clearest path to envisioning and executing the town's future, and it allows me the privilege of making decisions that drive towards my vision of that future state. Plus, it is a prime spot to play a role in helping to grow new leadership that ensures a bright future for the town. For example, I was privileged to watch and participate in the sustained efforts by determined, smart, and hardworking volunteers of the

Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. They represented the very best in community participation: building towards their vision, rather than simply tearing down what they didn't like; engaging in discussions, rather than standing on a soapbox and shouting through a bullhorn; and developing solutions and approaches to complex issues, rather than believing there is only one answer to a problem. It was great to play a part in that, and it represents a standard that I will try to meet.

Finally, my vision of the town is pretty simple: to harmonize individual rights with those of the community; to strengthen and improve our infrastructure while carefully weighing cost alternatives; and to remain an island of sanity and peace while not neglecting our neighbor communities. In the meantime, I'll continue to engage in this little laboratory of participatory democracy as best as I can. Thanks.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

Letter from the Mayor

I want to reiterate my thanks to all the town residents who volunteer their time and talents to make Garrett Park such an extraordinary place to call home. In particular, I want to recognize the hard work put in by members of the Town Council, and to extend special appreciation to Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp for their willingness to continue service to the town as Councilmembers. I know that the decision to commit time and energy for an additional term—with competing professional and family demands—is never easy. I am grateful that they will continue to bring their enthusiasm and expertise to the work of the Council. Even though the May 2 election is uncontested, I urge you to join me in voting for these dedicated volunteers to show our support and gratitude for their contributions to Garrett Park. I have been pleased and honored to work with every member of the Council and look forward to continuing to work with Beth, Jack, Chris, Phil, and Hans.

We are also well served by the members and chairpersons of the various committees who contribute their efforts to town betterment. That encompasses a large number of residents to whom we should be deeply grateful. It is inherently difficult to single out individuals, but I trust that no one

will be slighted if I cite a few examples. This spring, the town took advantage of an opportunity to obtain some new oak varieties to grace our streets; ordering and other logistics posed some last-minute challenges that Michael Spekter, chair of the Arbo-retum Committee, helped us overcome as we found "homes" for these uncommon new trees. The Parks and Open Spaces Committee, energetically chaired by Ida Sullivan, continues to research and recommend improvements to parks and playgrounds within Garrett Park. And the Archives Committee, under the experienced guidance of chair Charles Snyder, has truly hit the ground running after its recent establishment as a formal town committee.

Finally, a few miscellaneous items of information: at a recent meeting with State Highway Administration officials, we learned of plans to repave Strathmore (MD Route 547) both east and west of town, anticipated to occur this summer. The town has received an utterly unresponsive communication ostensibly replying to our letter of last year requesting various changes in operations at the Garrett Park Post Office. The form letter is, in my opinion, an insult to the effort of the town to make affirmative suggestions for improved service in the specific context of revenue enhancement for USPS. The town will continue to pursue the issue, to the extent possible. Construction of the rebuilt Garrett Park Elementary School continues, as do the efforts of the town to mitigate the effects of construction traffic and other impacts on the town. The Nursery School, in coordination with the town, is making good progress in its plans for renovation of the Community Center. Town "winter" tree removals will conclude soon, having been delayed by the need for extensive remedial tree work following winter storms; wood from suitable trees (e.g., oak) will be cut in fireplace length and placed curbside for resident pickup.

Remember to vote on Monday, May 2! My best wishes for a splendid spring... always a beautiful time in Garrett Park.

Chris Keller

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